



**ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY**  
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**NEWS RELEASE** *for Immediate Release*

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**Commissioners Observe National Transportation Week**

**Leonardtown, MD** - May 15 - 21, 2016 marks the 64<sup>th</sup> time the Nation will mark National Transportation Week. The week provides an opportunity for everyone to join together and raise awareness about public transportation and its benefits by encouraging people to ride public transportation. The Commissioners of St. Mary's County marked the occasion by formally declaring National Transportation Week in the county.

“On May 16, 1957, Congress approved the third Friday of May each year as National Defense Transportation Day,” noted Commissioner Mike Hewitt (2nd District). “In 1962, Congress updated the request to include the whole week as National Transportation Week to provide an opportunity to celebrate the community of transportation professionals who keep our country moving.”

Special events to be held in the county throughout the week include distribution of STS passenger appreciation items to bus riders on May 15 – 16, Veterans Ride-All-Day for a Dollar Events on May 16 - 17, Driver of the Year recognition on May 17, Ride-All-Day for a dollar promotion days on May 18 - 19 to encourage transit ridership, STS Bus Driver/Mechanic Crew Appreciation Day on May 20 and “Stuff the Bus” events on May 21 to help replenish local area food banks with non-perishable foods.

The Department of Public Works and Transportation will also join with public transportation systems nationwide to celebrate the American Public Transportation Association's 11<sup>th</sup> annual “National Dump the Pump Day” on June 16.

In proclaiming National Transportation Week commissioners encouraged citizens to use public transportation and acknowledge it as an important part of the nation's transportation system which provides an affordable and necessary alternative to driving.

*Photos from the ceremony can be found on the county's photo page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/stmaryscountygovernment/sets/>. Media outlets may publish photos from the photo page with the MANDATORY COURTESY: “**Photo courtesy St. Mary's County Public Information Office.**”*

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